This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus which operates under control of an external apparatus comprises an image sensing unit for reading an image, and an interface for transferring an image signal read by the image sensing unit to the external apparatus, the image sensing apparatus comprising:

a detector for detecting an abnormality of the interface on the basis of an electric potential of a predetermined position of the interface; and

a controller for, when said detector detects any abnormality of the interface during an image reading process controlled by said external apparatus, setting said image reading apparatus in a ~~power saving mode~~ sleep state until the communication with the external apparatus restarts.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one of an internal circuit and mechanical position of the image sensing unit is initialized to the state identical to the state at the time when the apparatus is powered on ~~in the power saving mode~~ before or after the apparatus set to the sleep state.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image

sensing unit comprises:

a light source for irradiating a document with light;

an image sensor for converting light reflected by a document irradiated with light from said light source into an electrical image signal;

a moving unit for moving a relative position between an image of the document and said image sensor; and

a setting unit for ~~setting~~ stopping power supply to at least one of said light source and said moving unit in the ~~power saving mode~~ sleep state in accordance with a setup of said controller.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an A/D converter for converting the image signal output from the image sensing unit into a digital signal,

wherein the interface transfers the digital image signal converted by said A/D converter to the external apparatus.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detector detects any abnormality of the interface by detecting a change in potential of a power supply line included in the interface.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detector detects any abnormality of the interface by detecting a change in a voltage-level of a

data line included in the interface.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the interface has a function of allowing to plug/unplug a cable without turning off a power supply of the external apparatus.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the function of the interface complies with USB or IEEE1394.

10. (Currently Amended) A control method for an image reading apparatus which operates under control of an external apparatus and comprises an image sensing unit for reading an image, and [[a]] an interface for transferring an image signal read by the image sensing unit to the external apparatus, the method comprising:

a detection step of detecting an abnormality of the interface on the basis of an electric potential of a predetermined position of the interface; and

a control step of setting, when any abnormality of the interface is detected during an image reading process controlled by said external apparatus in the detection step, the image reading apparatus in a ~~power saving mode~~ sleep state until the communication with the external apparatus restarts.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein at least one of an internal circuit and mechanical position of the image sensing unit is initialized to

the state identical to the state at the time when the apparatus is powered on ~~in the power saving mode~~ before or after the apparatus set to the sleep state.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

an A/D conversion step of converting the image signal output from the image sensing unit into a digital signal; and

a transfer step of transferring the digital image signal converted in the A/D conversion step to the external apparatus.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the detection step includes a step of detecting any abnormality of the interface by detecting a change in potential of a power supply line included in the interface.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the detection step includes a step of detecting any abnormality of the interface by detecting a change in a voltage-level of a data line included in the interface.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the interface has a function of allowing to plug/unplug a cable without turning off a power supply

of the external apparatus.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the function of the interface complies with USB or IEEE1394.

18. (Currently Amended) An image processing system which comprises an image reading apparatus, that operates under control of a host apparatus for outputting an image signal read by an image sensing unit to an interface, and the host apparatus for processing the image signal sent from the image reading apparatus via the interface,

the image reading apparatus comprising:

a detector for detecting an abnormality of the interface on the basis of an electric potential of the predetermined position of the interface; and

a controller for, when said detector detects any abnormality of the interface during an image reading process controlled by said external apparatus, setting the image reading apparatus in a ~~power saving mode~~ sleep state until the communication with the external apparatus restarts.

19. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 18, wherein at least one of an internal circuit and mechanical position of the image sensing unit is initialized to the state identical to the state at the time when the apparatus is powered on ~~in the power saving mode~~ before or after the apparatus set to the sleep state.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 18, further comprising an A/D converter for converting the image signal output from the image sensing unit into a digital signal,

wherein the interface transfers the digital image signal converted by said A/D converter to the host apparatus.

22. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 18, wherein said detector detects any abnormality of the interface by detecting a change in potential of a power supply line included in the interface.

23. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 18, wherein said detector detects any abnormality of the interface by detecting a change in a voltage-level of a data line included in the interface.

24. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 18, wherein the interface has a function of allowing to plug/unplug a cable without turning off a power supply of the host apparatus.

25. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 24, wherein the function of the interface complies with USB or IEEE1394.

26. (Currently Amended) A storage medium that stores a program for implementing a control method for an image reading apparatus which operates under control of an external apparatus and comprises an image sensing unit for reading an image, an interface for transferring an image signal read by the image sensing unit to the external apparatus, and a detector for detecting an abnormality of the interface on the basis of an electric potential of a predetermined position of the interface, comprising:

computer readable program code means for, when the detector detects any abnormality of the interface during an image reading process controlled by said external apparatus, setting the image reading apparatus in ~~a power saving mode~~ sleep state until the communication with the external apparatus restarts.

27. (Previously Presented) The medium according to claim 26, wherein the interface has a function of allowing to plug/unplug a cable without turning off a power supply of the external apparatus.

28. (Original) The medium according to claim 27, wherein the function of the interface complies with USB or IEEE1394.